

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 SAJ-01 NIC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /137 W

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P 231540Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9969

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 1110

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR GV FR GW

SUBJECT : DELAY IN DEPARTURE OF WEST GERMAN PRISONERS

REF: CONAKRY USIAC 1102 (USINFO O221520Z JUL 74)

1. AS REPORTED REFTTEL GUINEAN FONMIN ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO RELEASE WEST GERMAN PRISONER (MARX) ON JULY 22. GOG HAD ASSURED ANDRE LEWIN, REPRESENTATIVE OF UN SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM, THAT ADOLPH MARX AND REMAINING TWO GERMAN PRISONERS WOULD BE ALLOWED TO DEPART THAT EVENING ON SABENA FLIGHT TO BRUSSELS. JUST PRIOR TO FLIGHT TIME, GOG INFORMED UN OFFICIALS AND ITALIAN EMBASSY THAT RELEASE DELAYED ONE WEEK. PRISONERS DID NOT DEPART.

2. HAVE LEARNED ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS THAT THE GOG EXPLAINED THIS LATEST DELAY BY SAYING THAT THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE HAD NOT YET FORMALLY APPROVED PRESIDENT TOURE'S DECISION TO RELEASE THE PRISONERS. (SPECULATION IN DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY WAS THAT PRISONERS' HEALTH HAD NOT ALLOWED DEPARTURE, BUT THIS IS NOT CORRECT.)

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3. ONE UNSUBSTANTIATED REPORT HAS BEEN RECEIVED THAT DELAY

ALSO MAY BE DUE TO PLANNED JULY 26 VISIT TO CONAKRY BY ITALIAN VICE MINISTER OF STATE MARIO PEDINI, TO ALLOW ITALIAN GOVERNMENT TO SHARE IN CREDIT FOR ARRANGING PRISONER RELEASE. THE PARAGRAPH REFERRING TO PEDINI'S PAST ACTIVITIES IN THE JULY 22 GOG COMMUNIQUE WAS ADDED AT LAST MINUTE; REMAINDER OF COMMUNIQUE WAS TEXT WHICH HAD BEEN GENERALLY AGREED TO IN LEWIN/GOG DISCUSSIONS SOME TWO WEEKS EARLIER.

4. ANOTHER INTERESTING ASPECT OF COMMUNIQUE WAS BROAD WORDING OF PARAGRAPHS CONCERNING THE BASES ON WHICH COOPERATION COULD BE ESTABLISHED WITH "ALL" MEMBER STATES OF THE UN. FONMIN CISSOKO CONFIRMED TO AMBASSADOR THAT THIS WORDING INDICATED GUINEA'S READINESS ENTER INTO NORMAL RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES. THIS WOULD SEEM TO BE INTENDED TO CLEAR OPENING FOR THE FRENCH, ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT AGREE WITH LOCAL OBSERVERS WHO BELIEVE THAT GUINEA ENVISAGES ANY RAPID NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH FRANCE AND WEST GERMANY.

5. REACTION OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES REPRESENTED IN CONAKRY TO LIKELIHOOD OF PRISONER RELEASE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN SURPRISE AND SOME DISMAY.

6. IT IS SURPRISING, BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE, THAT THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE HAS IN EFFECT LIMITED PRESIDENT TOURE'S ACTIONS IN THIS MATTER. THERE MAY BE HARD-LINE MINISTERS WHO STILL DO NOT WISH TO SEE ANY PROGRESS TOWARD NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH FRANCE AND WEST GERMANY. GENERAL FEELING, HOWEVER, IS THAT NORMALIZATION IS INEVITABLE AND, SUBJECT TO OCCASIONAL SET-BACKS WILL OCCUR OVER PERIOD OF TIME.
TODMAN

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